

LINN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
CEDAR RAPIDS, LINN COUNTY, IOWA
MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2023 10:00 A.M.

The Board met in session at the Linn County Jean Oxley Public Service Center. Present: Chairperson Zumbach, Vice Chairperson Rogers and Supervisor Running-Marquardt. Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted.

Chairperson Zumbach called the meeting to order.

Motion by Zumbach, seconded by Rogers to approve minutes of October 4, 2023 as presented.

Jodi Bridgewater, East Central Region, presented the updated 28E Agreement for Mental Health/Disability Services of the East Central Region and asked that Supervisor Rogers be authorized to sign the agreement for the upcoming Regional Governing Board meeting.

Motion by Rogers, seconded by Running-Marquardt to approve and authorize Supervisor Rogers to sign the updated 28E Agreement for Mental Health/Disability Services of the East Central Region at the upcoming Regional Governing Board meeting.

Steve Estenson, Risk Manager, presented updates to the Linn County Workplace Violence Policy. He stated that he made a considerable number of updates and this addresses physical and verbal threats.

Supervisor Rogers asked if a front-line staff member will be empowered to handle a situation and he gave an example. Estenson stated that front-line staff are empowered to ask for help, but it is the duty of a supervisor/manager to handle the matter from there. This policy will be covered in ALICE training.

Lisa Powell, HR Dir., stated that De-Escalation Training has been held and she will explore more training opportunities. HR will put this in a policy format and will be discussed further and approved on Wednesday.

Lisa Epp, Asst. County Atty., presented the proposed policy on the designation of Linn County owned property as nonpublic forums noting that there have been no changes since last week.

Chairperson Zumbach asked if the previously discussed Workplace Violence Policy could eliminate the need for this policy.

Epp stated that this policy is also keeping members of the community safe, noting that the Courthouse and Jail include those with protective orders, child custody matters and witnesses in trials. That is part of the reason for asking for this policy to be approved.

Supervisor Running-Marquardt stated that she understands the need to protect victims and children and making sure the buildings are safe, however, she would like to enact the Workplace Violence Policy first and see if another step is necessary once that is in place. She stated that it makes sense to work on the Workplace Violence policy first.

Supervisor Rogers stated that he appreciates what the County Attorney is bringing forth and he is certain that he does not know all the challenges. However, regarding safety, the Courthouse is secured by the Sheriff's Dept., and they have infrastructure in place to screen and monitor what comes in. He prefers implementing the Workplace Violence Policy first rather than designating certain places in county buildings as nonpublic. He also does not think the policy will change or curtail the behavior that is occurring. He will not support the nonpublic forums designation.

It was the consensus of the Board to not move forward with the proposed policy on the designation of Linn County owned property as nonpublic forums.

Britt Nielsen, Communications Dept., presented a proposal from Communications Engineering Company (CEC) for audio/video, and related technology upgrades in the Linn County Public Service Center and Harris Building. This was the only proposal submitted as a response to the RFP. A price was negotiated in the amount of \$328,718 (\$300,000 budgeted through ARPA). It has been determined that the remainder can be absorbed with ARPA funding. The Board will approve on Wednesday.

Public Comment: Marc Banowetz, 2188 Ivanhoe Rd., stated that he agrees with the statement made by Supervisor Rogers regarding the nonpublic forum. He asked if the no guns allowed applied only to employees or the public as well. Steve Estenson stated that it only applies to employees.

Motion by Zumbach, seconded by Rogers to approve Employment Change Roster (payroll authorizations) as follows:

COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Criminal Prosecutor I Megan Hall
\$86,662.60/annually Replaces R. Schulte

New hire – FT 11/13/23 Gr 27

SHERIFF’S OFFICE

Deputy Sheriff	Patrick O'Hare	Transfer from Correctional Center to
Patrol 10/28/23 D5 \$38.85 – D5 \$38.42		
Correctional Center Nurse	Jennifer Armstrong	Termination/resignation 10/04/23
Correctional Center Nurse	Dena Fisher	Termination/resignation 10/20/23
Lieutenant	Heather Lander	Promotion 10/21/23 S2 \$50.25 -
\$129,307.00/annually		
Sergeant	Steven McElmeel	Transfer from Patrol to
Detention/Transport 10/14/23		

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Home Health Care Aide	Jamie Stithem	New hire – FT 10/16/23 53A \$17.57
Replaces K. Yauslin		

Adjournment at 10:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JOEL D. MILLER, Linn County Auditor
By: Rebecca Shoop, Deputy Auditor

APPROVED BY:

LOUIS J. ZUMBACH, Chairperson
Board of Supervisors